



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release - Immediate

September 11, 1925.

PRESIDENT RESERVES ISLANDS
FOR NEW WILD-LIFE REFUGE

President Coolidge, by a recent Executive Order, has withdrawn from settlement, location, sale, or entry, all islands owned by the United States in the Mississippi River between Rock Island, Ill., and Wabasha, Minn., and has reserved them for the use of the Department of Agriculture in connection with the establishment of the Upper Mississippi River Wild-Life and Fish Refuge. The islands are withdrawn in order that the Department of Agriculture may hold them as parts of the wild-life refuge from the start instead of having to buy them later from private owners. These islands, with other islands in the river north of Cairo, Ill., were first withdrawn from public entry in 1891 for the use of the War Department in connection with possible improvements of navigation on the Upper Mississippi, but were restored to entry and disposal by the Secretary of the Interior, on April 25, 1925. The order of President Coolidge again retains under Government ownership all islands within the limits of the new wild-life refuge.

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